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Extension Watershed Steward Training Application 2004

Thank you for your interest in the WSU Extension King County, Watershed Stewardship Program. The program is now in its fifteenth year! Extension Watershed Stewards are trained and certified volunteers who help others make educated choices about the use of our land and water resources.

Selected individuals will receive 70+ hours of training about watersheds and their resources. The training emphasizes practical watershed stewardship, and focuses on connections between urban, rural, and wild landscapes of King County. Topics include watershed geology, hydrology, forest resources, wetlands, wildlife, farmland, interactions between people and watersheds, and much more. Classroom and field training is provided by a wide array of presenters from WSU Extension, public agencies, private concerns and citizen organizations.

In return for the training, stewards agree to provide a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer outreach to residents of King County within the first year. In order to maintain their certified status, stewards must complete 25 hours of approved community service and 10 hours of approved continuing education for each continuing year.

The training will be held in Renton, WA every **Friday from April 2 through May 28, 2004**. Field trips will be held on two Saturdays. Classroom and field sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$35 to help offset costs of materials and transportation.

The **application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on February 25, 2004**. Examine the enclosed application materials carefully. If you have any doubt about your ability to make the commitment to the training or service, please consider applying another time. Applications may be faxed or e-mailed, but an original, signed copy must be submitted before classes begin. After the initial selection, **you may be invited for a morning or afternoon interview during the weeks of either March 8 or 15, 2004**.

Questions? Call Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 or Sylvia Kantor at 206-205-3131. Outside the Seattle calling area, dial toll-free 1-800-325-6165, ext. 5-3171 or visit our website www.metrokc.gov/WSU-CE/land&water

Materials are available in alternate format by calling
Paul Racette 206-205-3171 or 206-205-3100 711 (TTY relay), or email
paul.racette@metrokc.gov.

Some commonly asked questions:

What kind of people are you looking for? Do I have to be a professional ecologist or an environmental activist?

We are looking for King County residents who care about the land, water, and other natural resources. We have found that people with previous volunteer experience and commitment succeed as Extension Watershed Stewards. You must be willing and able to make the major commitment of time necessary to complete the training and service. Volunteers vary greatly in age and occupation, as well as their personal beliefs toward environmental regulations.

How technical is the training?

This is not a technical training, although it does include certain technical elements. We want to give volunteers the basic understanding of natural and related human systems. You don't need to be a scientist but you do have to be willing to read, study and actively participate.

Why do you have the training on weekdays?

Due to the number of hours involved in the training and the availability of outside speakers, we must have the training take place on a weekday.

If I can't make this training, when will you have another?

Extension Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Trainings are held dependent on available staff and other resources. Historically the training has been held just once a year in the spring, so you will likely have to wait a full year to apply again. If you are on the WSU Extension Watershed Stewardship interest list, you will be notified of upcoming trainings as well as related conferences, workshops and items of interest. You can also check our web site at <http://www.metrokc.gov/wsue> and click on the Natural Resources section for an index to our programs.

Will I get university credit for the training?

No. Even though the training is comprehensive, we are not able to issue credit for this training. This training is meant to prepare you for volunteer service.

Can I get WSU Extension to verify that I took the training so I can get credit for a course I'm taking or for consideration of a job that I am applying for?

We will be happy to supply references but only at the completion of the minimum service commitment.

What will the training cost?

A \$35 fee will be charged to defray some of the cost of materials and transportation. There may also be other incidental costs associated with any class such as food, transportation etc.

I don't live in King County, but I work there. Can I be in the program?

Preference is given to King County residents. If you live in another county you should contact your local WSU Extension office regarding the availability of similar

programs. If you qualify and we have room in the class, we can accept you if you plan to do the majority of your service hours within King and Pierce County.

How many people will be selected?

Since this training involves a lot of participation and interaction the class size is limited to 20 people.

Why do I need to come in for an interview?

We usually receive many more applications than we have training slots. The brief time together gives Extension staff a chance to learn more about you. The interview gives you the chance to ask detailed questions about the program, which will be a major commitment of your time and energy.

I can't attend all the sessions. Does it matter?

Yes, it does matter. Each session provides valuable information that is not available in any other form. You will meet people who can help your understanding of various subjects and assist you when it comes time to work on projects. If you miss sessions, for whatever reason, you may be asked to terminate the program and reapply to a subsequent training when you will be able to attend.

I don't like public speaking. Does this mean I shouldn't apply?

Public speaking is only one way to educate people; there are many other ways. Each volunteer will develop, in conjunction with program staff, an individualized volunteer service plan that fits well with who they know, what they know and how they prefer to work.

What type of educational volunteer service do Watershed Stewardship Volunteers perform?

Stewards are required to contribute a certain number of their volunteer hours to WSU Extension programs and events unless otherwise specified. In addition, most stewards work within their community, workplace, clubs and associations, place of worship, etc. Some also help with public education booths at fairs and other community events. Volunteers also work with groups who call the office to request volunteers for their education projects. Other stewards help out in the WSU Extension office or assist in developing trainings and workshops. Some volunteers have worked on publications, web pages, slide shows and other educational products. Volunteers also develop interpretive sites or organize field trips and nature walks. The possibilities are limited only by imagination.

Will the program assist me in my educational service?

The Watershed Stewardship program staff wants to help you as much as needed so you can be a successful volunteer.

What happens after I finish my minimum educational service obligation?

It is hoped that you will, like most other stewards, continue with your service. There is no limit to your involvement!

WSU Extension Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Application (2004)

I. General Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ County _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone (_____) _____ Evening phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Fax (_____) _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) _____ Former Name (if any) _____

How would you describe the area where you live? ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural

How did you hear about the Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Program?

II. Volunteer Interest and Experience

1) What is your occupation? _____

2) Previous work, education, or volunteer experience: (List most recent experience first).

<u>Employer/Organization/School</u>	<u>Position/Volunteer Role</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3) Why do you want to be an Extension Watershed Steward Volunteer?

4) Skills, Interests, Experience: Please check the items below which will add to your effectiveness as an Extension Watershed Steward Volunteer.

<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/bookkeeping	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Web page design/maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Audiovisual operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing/fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing, editing newsletters
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry/woodworking	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership/management	<input type="checkbox"/> Other skills (specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerical/office skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography/videography	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Public relations, marketing	<input type="checkbox"/> Computers (specify software) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> First aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking, teaching	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Food service	<input type="checkbox"/> Research, data collection	_____

5) Do you speak, read, or write a language other than English (including American Sign Language)? Please list.

6) How will your previous experience (including volunteering) or education help you be an effective leader and educator, including working with youth or diverse adult audiences?

7) What do you think is the role of education in protecting natural resources in King County?

8) What are you most interested in learning during the volunteer training?

9) Stewards have the most success when they are members of groups to involve in education or projects. What clubs, associations, neighborhoods, churches or other groups are you involved with that could benefit from you becoming an Extension Watershed Steward Volunteer? Have you volunteered before for natural resource or other related work activities?

10) After having examined the dates for the training (see cover document), are there any sessions you think you will be unable to attend? Please explain.

11) Stewards are required to contribute up to 15 of their volunteer hours to WSU Extension programs and events unless otherwise specified. Please indicate one or more of the following you would be to volunteer with upon completion of the training. (Details of these events will be provided during initial interviews and training).

☐ Harvest Celebration Farm Tour October 3, 2004

☐ King County Fair July 2004

☐ Small Farm Expo March 2005

☐ Continuing Education Events

☐ 2005 Watershed Steward Training Preparation

☐ Conservation Tools Program

☐ Newsletter Production

☐ General program support

12) We try to coordinate our training with agencies and organizations that have specific needs for volunteers to take educational and leadership roles. As a result, we are targeting a portion of our recruitment towards (a) salmon recovery efforts in King County, (b) a land, food, and the environment education program, and (c) other WSU Extension Watershed Stewardship Program initiatives. Please check any statements that represent your preferences:

- ☐ I live in Seattle and wish to volunteer in City programs.
- ☐ I live within the _____ watershed and wish to volunteer in programs in that area.
- ☐ I am willing (for all or part of my hours) to accept assignment to a volunteer activity or location.
- ☐ I wish to determine my own volunteer projects. Here is a description of what I might like to do:

13) Do you prefer to work directly with: _____youth _____adults _____both
If youth, what age do you prefer? Ages: ____5-8 ____9-12 ____13-19 ____no preference

14) Do you have a health or medical condition that we need to accommodate for training? Please explain.

15) What commitments do you have that would affect your availability for volunteer service?

III. Background Disclosure

Answer YES or NO to each listed item. If the answer is YES, explain in the area provided, indicating the charge or finding, the date, and the court(s) involved.

1) Convicted of any crime against children or other persons? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

2) Convicted of crimes relating financial exploitation if the victim was a vulnerable adult? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

3) Convicted of crimes related to drugs as defined in RCW 43.43.830? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

4) Found in any dependency action under RCW 13.34.040 to have sexually assaulted or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

5) Found by a court in a domestic relations proceeding under Title 26 RCW to have sexually abused or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

6) Found in any disciplinary board final decision to have sexually or physically abused or exploited any minor or developmentally disabled person or to have abused or financially exploited any vulnerable adult?

YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

7) Found by a court in a protection proceeding under chapter 74.34 RCW, to have abused or financially exploited a vulnerable adult? YES NO

If YES, please explain: _____

Please note: A criminal record will be considered as it relates to specifics of the volunteer position for which you are applying. A criminal record may prevent an individual from volunteering, depending on the nature of the offense.

IV. Personal References

Please list 1-3 non-family members who have knowledge of your skills, abilities, and qualifications. Individuals should have worked with you on projects and activities and or have direct experience with or knowledge of your qualifications. Please provide complete addresses and phone numbers.

1) _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____

Home Ph _____ Work Ph _____ Email _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2) _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____

Home Ph _____ Work Ph _____ Email _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3) _____
Name: _____ Relationship _____

Home Ph _____ Work Ph _____ Email _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I authorize the contact of listed references and understand a criminal background check will be completed prior to final consideration of my application to volunteer. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of required information is just cause for non-appointment as a volunteer with WSU Extension. I understand that I serve at the pleasure of WSU Extension and agree to abide by the policies of WSU Extension and individual program areas and to fulfill the volunteer responsibilities to the best of my ability.

I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer with the Extension Watershed Stewardship program I will be expected to attend all training sessions. At the completion of training I agree to fulfill a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer service, up to fifteen (15) of which will be assigned to me by mutual agreement.

Applicant Signature _____ *Date* _____

Completed and signed applications are by **4:00 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2004.**

WSU Extension King County
Watershed Stewardship Program
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paul.racette@metrokc.gov or fax: 206-296-0952

Faxed and email applications are accepted prior to the deadline, but a signed original must also be submitted before classes begin on April 2, 2004.

Thank you!